



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 2nd – July 8th, 2017

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.



Region I- Acworth (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Byron Young and Ranger Frank Pucci stopped a vessel for a rules of the road violation on Allatoona Lake near Park Marina. The operator was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was charged with BUI and violation of the rules of the road on the water.

On July 3rd, Sgt. Jason Roberson and RFC Zack Hardy stopped a vessel without a stern light displayed near Park Marina on Allatoona Lake. The operator was found to be under the influence of drugs. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a vessel without a stern light. The Wardens searched the vessel and discovered several different felony drugs onboard. The Bartow County Drug Task Force was called to assist with the case. DTF agents seized the vessel and arrested one of the passengers for felony drug charges. The operator of the vessel faces additional felony drug charges.

On July 8th, Cpl. Byron Young and Bartow County Deputy Jonathan Shirley patrolled the Webster's area of Red Top Mt. State Park. The officers observed two men drinking beer on floats in Allatoona Lake. The officers observed the men sink their beer bottles into the lake. Several minutes later the officers made contact with the two men and issued citations for littering.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Game Warden Nolan Callaway patrolled the Etowah River from Rome to Euharlee. During the patrol, the game wardens encountered many people without life jackets. Several citations were issued. Also while on this patrol, they encountered a Cartersville man who was found to be in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana. He was subsequently arrested and taken to the Bartow County jail.

On July 3rd while returning down river, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Game Warden Nolan Callaway located 2 adults and 1 juvenile on tubes in the river in distress. One of the tubes had a hole in it and the river was running extremely fast. None of them had a life jacket (Personal Flotation Device – PFD). They were rescued and taken back to GA 61 boat ramp. A Kingston man was issued a citation for operating a vessel without PFDs.

FLOYD COUNTY

On July 2nd, Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Ben Cunningham, and new Game Warden Kalem Burns participated in a road check on Big Texas Valley Road and Wildwood Cove Road which is an entrance to the Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area. Also participating was the Georgia State Patrol and the Floyd County Sheriff's Office. The officers were checking to ensure drivers had proper licenses, registration, insurance, and seat belts. During the road check, officers made several arrest for persons driving on suspended driver's licenses and wanted persons. Fifteen citations were issued for other violations. Several positive comments were received from visitors to the Rocky Mountain PFA for assistance with keeping the area safe for the family holiday.

FULTON COUNTY

On July 2nd, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Ryan Locke patrolled the Chattahoochee River from Sandy Point to Azalea Park. During the patrol, the Game Wardens checked 6 vessels and 5 individuals fishing. 3 individuals were issued warnings for fishing w/o license.

On July 4th, Cpl. Chad Cox and Ranger Locke patrolled on the Chattahoochee River from Jones Bridge to McGinnis Ferry. The Game Wardens checked 80 vessels and 20 fishing license. Several warnings were written for fishing violations.

On July 8th, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Ryan Locke patrolled on the Chattahoochee River from Morgan Falls Dam to Don White Park. During the patrol the Game Wardens checked 6 fishing license and 312 vessels. Two verbal warnings were given.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Ryan Locke patrolled on Sweetwater Creek State Park. During the patrol 16 individuals were checked fishing and Game Wardens issued 4 warnings for fishing w/o license.

PAULDING COUNTY

On July 3rd, Cpl. Brooks Varnell, K-9 Taz, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Ryan Locke patrolled on Paulding Forest and Sheffield WMA's. There was no activity to report.

HARALSON COUNTY

On July 4th, RFC Daniel Gray patrolled on the Tallapoosa River to check for fishing activity boating activity. During the patrol 26 vessels were checked and one individual was cited for operating a vessel w/o a PFD.

CARROLL COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Eric Brown and Cpl. Chad Cox patrolled Lake Seaton. They issued a warning for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without lights. The Game Wardens issued one citation for fishing without permission.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HART COUNTY

On July 2nd, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Derek Dillard patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety/fishing activity. Several boats were checked for proper safety equipment and several fishing licenses were inspected. During their patrol a total of 9 violations were documented. The violations consisted of operating a vessel without registration, fishing without a license, underage children riding in moving vessel without PFD, and allowing persons to ride on the bow of a vessel.

On July 4th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. During their patrol 6 violations were documented. The violations consisted of insufficient PFD's, light violations, and fishing without licenses.

MADISON COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Shane Sartor was patrolling Watson Mill State Park and noticed some vehicles in an unauthorized area. RFC Sartor made contact with the occupants of the vehicles and noticed a black bag. After the investigation was completed RFC Shane Sartor and the Madison County Sheriff's Office seized the black bag which contained several grams of methamphetamine and a scale. One subject was arrested and charged with multiple felony drug charge and obstruction.

UNION COUNTY

On July 2nd, Game Wardens Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Nottely Lake for boating safety violations. The Game Wardens checked several boats during the boating safety patrol, even while encountering several thunder storms. They issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: violation of the rules of the road, operating a PWC without wearing a PFD, allowing a person to operate a PWC without the proper safety equipment, allowing to operate a vessel without complying with rules/regulations, failure to display an anchor light, creating a wake in the no wake zone and operating a vessel without a throw able device.

On July 3rd, Game Wardens Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Nottely Lake for boating safety violations. The Game Wardens checked several boats during the boating safety patrol, even while encountering several thunder storms. They issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel above idle speed within 100 foot of a dock, towing a skier without wearing a PFD, riding bow/gunwale, creating a wake in the no wake zone and operating a vessel without a throw able device.

On July 4th, Game Wardens CPL Anne Wiley and Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Nottely Lake for boating safety violations. The Game Wardens checked several boats during the boating safety patrol, even while encountering several thunder storms. They issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: allowing two juveniles to operate personal water crafts while violating the 100 foot law (Both PWCs were spraying one another north of Nottely Marina), towing a skier with a PWC without an observer, operating a vessel with an unserviceable fire extinguisher, operating a vessel above idle speed within 100 foot of a dock, operating a vessel with improper lights, creating a wake in the no wake zone, operating a vessel without a throw able device.

WHITE COUNTY

On July 2nd, Cpl. Anne Wiley and Ranger Tommy Crabb patrolled Unicoi State Park. The Game Wardens cited one adult male for consuming alcohol on the State Park's beach area.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Anne Wiley and Intern Noah Osborne patrolled the Chattahoochee River. Cpl. Wiley cited one adult male from Tennessee for a non-resident fishing without a license and warned him for not having a non-resident trout license in Helen.

RABUN COUNTY

On July 2nd, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy David Dooley conducted two boating safety patrols on Lake Rabun. The Game Warden and Deputy issued warnings and citations for violation of rules of the road, operating vessel within 100' of object/shore above idle speed, operating a vessel without fire extinguisher, operating vessel without throwable device, operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness, and operating a vessel with improper lights during hours of darkness. RFC Chad Chambers and Deputy Cody Sanders assisted with a night patrol during the fireworks show. The Game Warden and Deputy issued citations and warning for operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness and operating a vessel with improper lights during hours of darkness.

On July 2nd, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun County Sheriff Deputy Cody Sanders patrolled Lake Burton by vessel. The two officers issued citations and warnings for violations including: Violating rules of the road of the waterway and operating vessel with improper lights.

On July 3rd, RFC Chambers and Deputy Jefferson Davis patrolled Lake Burton by vessel. The officers cited and warned boaters for operating with insufficient PFD's, creating a wake in a no wake zone, operating a PWC within a 100 feet of a boat dock and operating without a fire extinguisher.

On July 4th, RFC Chad Chambers and Deputy Tony Parrish patrolled Lake Rabun by vessel. The officers cited and warned individuals for towing a skier with a PWC without an observer, towing a skier between sunset and sunrise and operating vessel without lights after sunset.

Only July 3rd and 4th, while on foot patrol of Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Beth Gilbert issued citations to 4 adults for accessing the gorge floor without a permit, 4 adults for accessing a closed area of the park, and 2 adults for possession of marijuana VGCSA.

On July 4th, Game Warden's Tommy Crabb and Beth Gilbert responded to a call regarding an injured hiker on the stairs at Tallulah Gorge State Park. When they arrived, rescuers were already headed down to assist the subject out. Habersham Fire escorted the man out safely at 1200 hours. The victim was a 49 year old male from Lakeland, Fla. He had been scooting across the rocks on the gorge floor when he hyperextended his left arm / elbow. He was transported to North GA Medical Center by his wife.

On July 4th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Cody Sanders conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Burton. The Game Warden and Deputy issued warnings for operating a vessel with unserviceable fire extinguisher, creating wake in a no wake zone, operating a vessel within 100' of object/shore above idle speed, and violation of rules of the road.

On July 8th, RFC Chad Chambers and Deputy Tony Parrish patrolled Lake Rabun by vessel. The officers cited and warned individuals for towing a skier with a PWC without an observer, towing a skier between sunset and sunrise and operating vessel without lights after sunset.

On July 8th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy David Dooley conducted two boating safety patrols on Lake Burton. The Game Warden and Deputy issued citations and warnings for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing PFD, creating wake in a no wake zone, operating a vessel with unserviceable fire extinguisher, violation of rules of the road, and operating a vessel within 100' of object/shore above idle speed.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On July 7th, Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC Chad Chambers, and RFC Joe Hill, along with USFS LEO Jeff Angel, worked in conjunction with GSP Troopers to conduct three different road checks on and around Lake Russel WMA. The officers issued citations and made arrests for seat belt violations, violation of GA controlled substance act-felony (methamphetamine), driving on a revoked license, driving without insurance, driving with cancelled registration, driving under the influence, and driving under the influence-drugs; violation of GA controlled substance act-misdemeanor (marijuana), and Driving on a suspended license.

TOWNS COUNTY

On July 2nd, Ranger Beth Gilbert and RFC David Webb conducted a boating safety patrol of Lake Chatuge. The Game Wardens checked several boats and issued warnings for allowing a person to ride on the gunwale of a vessel, operating a vessel without a PFD, towing a skier with PWC without having an observer on board, operating a vessel above idle speed within 100' of an object, towing a person above idle speed within 100' of an object, insufficient PFDs, unserviceable fire extinguisher, and creating wake in a no wake zone.

On July 3rd, RFC David Webb and RFC Joe Hill conducted a boating safety patrol of Lake Chatuge. The Game Wardens checked several boats and issued citations and warnings for creating a wake in a no wake zone and allowing children to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On July 1st, Cpl. Brian Adams, Game Warden Michael Madden and Captain Stan Elrod conducted a concentrated patrol of Zone 2 during the Operation Dry Water detail. Zone 2 consisted of the lower and middle sections of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens also worked Zone 2 during the Amity fireworks show. Game Wardens stopped approximately twenty-two vessels during patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations in Columbia and Lincoln Counties; operating a vessel under the influence, allowing person to ride bow / gunwale, operating a vessel with expired registration, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's on board, improper vessel registration, operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness, operating a PWC during hours of darkness and allowing underage children to ride in a moving vessel without a PFD.

On July 4th CPL Brian Adams and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented were failure to obey regulatory markers, towing skier without an observer, and operating without registration.

ELBERT COUNTY

On July 4th CPL Julian Wilkins and RFC Tim Butler arrested a boat operator on Lake Russell for operating a vessel under the influence.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On July 3rd CPL Ryan Swain and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented were boating under the influence, failure to obey regulatory markers, and improper registration.

On Sunday July 9th, CPL Mark Patterson and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented during this patrol were towing a skier without an observer, allowing underage child to operate a PWC, and failure to obey regulatory markers.

On July 4th CPL Brian Adams and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented were failure to obey regulatory markers, towing skier without an observer, and operating without registration.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On July 3rd CPL Ryan Swain and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented were boating under the influence, failure to obey regulatory markers, and improper registration.

On Sunday July 9th CPL Mark Patterson and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Clarks Hill Lake for boating activity. Violations documented during this patrol were towing a skier without an observer, allowing underage child to operate a PWC, and failure to obey regulatory markers.

On July 2nd, Sgt. Brian Carter and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated patrol of the upper end of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens stopped approximately ten vessels during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations; operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's on board, fishing without a license, allowing another to operate a vessel without proper ID or Boating Safety Course and operating a PWC during hours of darkness.

On July 4th, Cpl. Ryan Swain and Game Warden Michael Madden conducted a concentrated patrol of the upper end of Clarks Hill Lake. Game Wardens stopped approximately eight vessels during the patrol. Game Wardens documented the following violations; operating a vessel under the influence, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's on board, improper vessel registration, allowing underage children to ride in a moving vessel without a PFD and operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

TROUP COUNTY

On Tuesday July 4th, Cpl. Keith Waddell and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled West Point Lake. They issued a warning for a man operating a PWC after hours. He had watched the fireworks on his PWC and was operating it about an hour after legal sunset.

On Tuesday July 4th, RFC Russell Epps and RFC Kevin Godbee patrolled West Point Lake. They issued several citations and warnings for various violations.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CLAY COUNTY

On July 1st while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, game wardens Quinn Fogle and Scott Carroll stopped a vessel and determined the operator to be under the influence. The subject was arrested for BUI and transported to the Clay County Jail.

On the night of July 1st as game wardens continued patrols on Walter F. George they observed a pontoon boat being operated without navigation lights. As the wardens approached the vessel the bow suddenly plunged under water throwing several occupants into the water. The wardens retrieved the occupants and transported them to shore, where navigation light and overloading issues were addressed with the operator.

On July 2nd while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, game wardens Quinn Fogle and Jim Atchley stopped a personal watercraft and determined the operator to be under the influence. The subject was arrested for BUI and transported to Clay County Jail.

On July 4th while patrolling Lake Walter F George, game wardens Jim Atchley, Ellis Wynn, Scott Carroll, Steve Robinson, and Quinn Fogle responded to a citizen complaint of a subject being intoxicated and disorderly on Gopher Island. After approaching the subject the officers discovered that he had an active arrest warrant out of Alabama. The wardens took the subject into custody and transported him to Clay County Jail where he was charged with public drunkenness and obstruction.

CRISP COUNTY

On July 4th, Game Wardens Clint Martin and Al Greer were working boating safety on Lake Blackshear when a vessel cut in front of them almost causing an accident. A vessel stop was conducted and the operator of the vessel was arrested for boating under the influence.

On July 4th, Game Wardens Clint Martin and Al Greer were working boating safety on Lake Blackshear when they observed a vessel being operated after sunset with no navigation lights. A vessel stop was conducted and the operator of the vessel was arrested for boating under the influence. The subject was charged with boating under the influence and operating a vessel without lights during the hours of darkness.

On July 4th, Game Wardens Jesse Harrison and Eric White were working boating safety when game warden Clint Martin contacted Harrison and asked him to assist him with a vessel stop in the mouth of Boy Scout Slough. Cpl. Martin had removed the operator from a vessel and began conducting field sobriety exercises on him when a passenger in the vessel assumed control and began operating the vessel himself, after he was told not to operate the vessel. Warden Harrison arrested the second operator of the vessel for boating under influence.

DECATUR COUNTY

On July 1st Cpl. Tony Cox and Ranger David Jones observed a vessel being operated with improper registration. After stopping the vessel the operator was determined to be under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently charged with boating under the influence.

On July 2nd, game wardens Cpl. Tony Cox and David Jones observed a PWC being operated by a subject with an improperly secured life jacket. After stopping the PWC it was determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently charged with boating under the influence.

On July 4th, Cpl. Cox and David Jones observed a vessel with improper registration. After stopping the vessel it was determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently charged with boating under the influence.

BAKER COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Bob Holley, Cpl. Cox, Steve Thomas and David Jones responded to a boating incident in which the boat struck a rock in the middle of the river and both subjects were ejected from the vessel. They were both treated at a nearby hospital and released.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

No activity to report.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)



BRYAN COUNTY

On July 4th, Game Wardens Jack Thain and Jay Morgan patrolled from St. Catherine's Sound to the Ogeechee River. At Newell Creek, the wardens checked a boat that had two speckled trout, one flounder, and one bonnethead shark which were all undersize. One trout which was alive was released back into the water. The other fish were seized and the boat operator was cited for possession of illegal size fish. Later that afternoon, the same two Game Wardens checked a boat with two 17-year old males and one 15 year-old male at Queen Bess

Creek. Alcohol was found in the boat and one of the 17 year-old males admitting to possessing it so he was cited for possession of alcohol by an underage person. The other 17 year-old was operating the vessel without mandatory boater education certification and was cited. The alcohol was seized and destroyed.

CHATHAM COUNTY

USCG received a report and responded to a plane crash/emergency landing on the east side of Ossawbaw Island this morning. The pilot and 2 passengers were not injured and refused medical attention after being picked up by the USCG. USCG officials stated the plane is a Cessna 210 and is on the beach. Sea Tow has advised they can get to the plane and remove it from the beach, but plans to get it have not been confirmed. Ossabaw Island WRD personnel have been advised of the incident.



BRYAN COUNTY

On July 9, 2017 RFC Jack Thain and RFC Kiel Toney patrolled Bryan and Liberty Counties by water. Thain and Toney checked numerous recreational boaters and several off shore fisherman. Several boaters were cited for violations that included the following: allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, no PFD's, and no registration.